

Application Serial No. 09/441,061
Amendment dated September 26, 2003
Reply to Office Action mailed June 26, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-45 (canceled).

46. (Currently amended):

An isolated complex comprising a peptide or peptide derivative derived from glutamic acid decarboxylase which is bound to an allele or a peptide-binding derivative of MHC class II molecules DR3 or DR4 selected from the group consisting of DR B1 0301, DR B1 0401, DR B1 0402 and DR B1 0404, wherein the peptide or peptide derivative has a length of at most 25 amino acids and comprises

(a) a peptide of at least 10 contiguous amino acids of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO'S: 2, 3 and 19-39, or

(b) a peptide or peptide derivative having a length of 10 to 25 amino acids that is at least 50% homologous to the peptide of (a) and which exhibits a specificity or/and affinity which is essentially equivalent to that of the peptide (a) and includes anchor positions for binding to said alleles or peptide-binding derivatives of MHC class II molecules; wherein in said peptide derivatives the peptide backbone and or the reactive amino acid side groups are derivatized.

47. (Previously presented):

The complex of claim 46 wherein the MHC class II molecules have the subtype DR B1 301 or DR B1 0401.

48. (Previously presented):

The complex of claim 46, wherein the MHC class II molecules are recombinant MHC

class II molecules.

49. (Previously presented):

The complex of claim 46 wherein the peptide or peptide derivative is bound to a soluble peptide binding derivative of said MHC class II DR3 or DR4 molecules.

50. (Previously presented):

The complex of claim 46, wherein the complex carries a marker group.

Claims 51-54 canceled.

55. (Previously presented):

The complex of claim 46, wherein the peptide or peptide derivative carries a marker group.

56. (Previously presented):

A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a complex as claimed in claim 46, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

57. (Previously presented):

The pharmaceutical composition of claim 56, further comprising an accessory stimulating component.

58. (Previously presented):

The pharmaceutical composition of claim 57, wherein the accessory stimulating

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component is a cytokine, surface antigen B7, or both.

Claims 59-79 canceled.

80. (New):

An isolated complex comprising a peptide derived from glutamic acid decarboxylase which is bound to an allele or a peptide-binding derivative of MHC class II molecules DR3 or DR4 selected from the group consisting of DR B1 0301, DR B1 0401, DR B1 0402 and DR B1 0404, wherein the peptide has a length of at most 25 amino acids and comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 3 and 19-39.

81. (New):

An isolated complex as in claim 46 wherein the peptide of (a) is at least 12 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO'S:2, 3 or 19-39.